• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXII MARCH, 1955 NUMBER 3

Strong Opposition To Upper Colorado River Projects Expressed In District Resolution

Solid opposition to the Upper Colorado River Basin "reclamation" project bills now pending in Congress was voiced this month by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District.

A strongly-worded resolution, unanimously adopted by the Board, denounced the projects as a dangerous threat to Southern California's contracted share of Colorado River water and called for California Congressmen to oppose the enactment of these bills.

California water authorities, including the Colorado River Board, have said that these projects, which call for a number of major dams and irrigation projects in the upper regions of the Colorado River, are based on distorted interpretations of the Colorado River Compact of 1922 and would affect both the quantity and quality of Colorado River water to which California is rightfully entitled.

Work is progressing rapidly on the lower feeder in Orange County. This giant nine-foot interior diameter pipeline is located in the Santa Ana Canyon about four miles west of Corona. Shown near the top is a truck carrying another of the 12-foot lengths of precast concrete pipe up to where it will be lowered into place.

The text of the resolution adopted by the Metropolitan Water District Board is as follows:

"During and since World War II the coastal plain area of 2691 square miles now served water from the Colorado River by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has been and continues to grow daily as a defense area of major importance to the military forces of the United States and allied members of the United Nations.

"Not only are the great aircraft industries centered in Los Angeles and San Diego, but many other industrial developments are now taking place, adding to the nation's defense potential which must be served with an adequate water supply.

"A population of about six million in the 66 cities located in five Southern California counties, served by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, also is dependent upon the aforementioned source of water.

"There are now pending in Congress bills, which, if enacted, would authorize the construction of a number of large dams and irrigation works in the Upper Basin of the Colorado River, these bills being specifically the Upper Colorado River Basin Project Bills, S. 500, H.R. 270 and H.R. 3383.

"The aforesaid bills threaten Southern California's contracted share of Colorado River water, both as to quantity and quality.

"The Colorado River Board of California has placed itself on record strongly in opposition to the aforesaid bills.

"These proposals are similar to those which failed to win Congressional approval last year and are based on a distorted interpretation of the Colorado River Compact of 1922. These distorted interpretations are adverse to the future growth and industrial expansion of Southern California, and are now under at-

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New York Bidder Buys Aqueduct Bonds

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District on March 8 authorized the sale of $8,000,000 in Colorado River Aqueduct bonds to Lehman Brothers of New York, and associates.

The Board took its action on the recommendation of its Finance and Insurance Committee, headed by Howard D. Mills.

The bid of Lehman Brothers and associates was one of six sealed bids opened by the Board. The successful bidders offered to buy the bonds at an interest rate of 2¼ percent and a premium of $63,280. The other bidders offered premiums of lesser amounts.

Proceeds from the sale of this block of bonds will be used to finance a part of the Aqueduct expansion program now being pushed forward by the District, it was pointed out by Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer.

The $8,000,000 block of bonds is part of the $220,000,000 bond issue authorized by the voters of the Metropolitan Water District in September, 1931.

With the sale of these bonds, District Controller A. W. McKinlay stated that $7,316,000 still remain unsold. The major part of the big issue was used to finance the initial construction, from 1932 to 1941, of the huge aqueduct system which has its intake on the Colorado River upstream from Parker Dam. The Aqueduct extends across the State of California to serve 66 incorporated cities and large unincorporated areas situated within the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego.

Other banking firms associated with Lehman Brothers in the bond purchase included Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.; Blair & Co., Inc.; Stone & Webster Securities Corp.; Phelps, Fenn & Co.; Union Securities Corp.; Dean Witter & Co.; Shields & Co.; and Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis and Associates.

Additional Pump Units Approved By District Board

The Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors has approved a recommendation of Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer, that $5,000,000 be added to the present $75,000,000 expansion program to provide for another pump unit at each of the five pumping plants on the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Construction work is now under way to add two pumps at each of the plants which were formerly equipped with only three pumps. The new pumps will bring the number at each pumping plant to six, each capable of lifting 90,000 gallons of water per minute.

"There will eventually be nine pumps at each pumping plant, including one pump at each plant for standby service to permit shutting down one pump at a time for maintenance and repairs," Mr. Diemer pointed out. "The ultimate capacity of the aqueduct will be in excess of one billion gallons of water a day."

He said that the total requirements for water within the next few years could exceed the amount of water that can be supplied with four pumps.

Board Opposes Projects

(Continued from Page One)

tack in the Supreme Court case of Arizona vs. California.

"The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is one of the principal contractors, under the Boulder Canyon Project Act, for the storage and delivery of water from Lake Mead and for the delivery of electrical energy from the Hoover Power Plant, and has a vital interest in the water available to the Lower Basin of the Colorado River under the Colorado River Compact, both as to quality and quantity, and also has a vital interest in the continued production of electrical energy from the Hoover Power Plant in accord with estimates upon which the United States and California agencies relied in financing the project.

"The enactment of said bills is against the interests of the Metropolitan Water District and other California agencies, and should be opposed.

"The Metropolitan Water District respectfully requests the representatives of the State of California in the Congress of the United States to oppose the enactment of the said bills or similar legislation, and further requests the municipalities and other agencies constituting the area of the Metropolitan Water District to join in requesting and urging such opposition."

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed March 1955, covering District operations for February 1955.)

Colorado River — The water level in Lake Mead dropped 4.7 feet during February to a new low elevation of 1,096.0 feet and a new minimum usable storage of 11,860,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 445,000 acre-feet for the month. At Hoover Dam the average rate of discharge was 13,000 cubic feet per second as compared with 11,700 for January. Lake Havasu varied in elevation from 447.9 to 447.0 and the average rate of discharge was 11,000 cfs.

Power and Pumping System—Pumping at Hayfield was on a three-pump basis after 4:23 p.m. February 1. Water pumped at Hayfield during the month was 31,845 acre-feet. Peak delivery to Edison Company was 110,000 kw.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant — Colorado River water was softened from 330 to 126 parts of hardness per million at an average rate of 154 cfs. The daily rate of flow varied from 122 to 184 cfs, with a total of 8,448 acre-feet treated during the month.

Construction — On the middle crossfeeder and Inglewood lateral, the contractor laid 2,103 feet of 79-inch welded steel pipe for a total to date of 3,936 feet. On the lower feeder, 2,551 feet of 108-inch precast concrete pipe was laid on the pipeline Cajalco to Corona; 3,051 feet within Corona; Corona to Santa Ana River Canyon, 1,496 feet of trench was excavated on Schedule 72P and 1,853 feet on Schedule 73SC; Santa Ana River Canyon to San Juan tunnel, 754 lineal feet of 108-inch concrete pipe was cast; at San Juan tunnel 958 lineal feet of 10-foot diameter tunnel was excavated, for a total to date of 5,654 feet, or 83 percent of the excavation. On the West Orange County feeder, 1,375 feet of 43-inch welded steel pipe was laid, for a total to date of 45,730 feet, or 99 percent.

On pumping plant expansion, 40 percent of the equipment installation was completed at Intake and Gene at month's end. On the pump delivery pipelines 180 cubic yards of concrete were placed in structures and incasements at Intake. At Gene, 300 lineal feet of 10-foot diameter steel pipe was laid, and pouring concrete incasements on the 6-foot diameter branch lines was completed.

Purchasing — Total expenditures covered by 398 purchase orders and three agreements issued amounted to approximately $63,442.

Southern California water officials are shown as they pledge to each other a united front in the battle to defend California's rightful share of Colorado River water. The above photo was taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Colorado River Association on March 3. Left to right, are: Fred W. Simpson, Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California; Walter W. Candy, Jr., President of the Colorado River Association; and Warren W. Butler, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District.

Colorado River Association Executives Hear Reports On Colorado River Battle

The Executive Committee of the Colorado River Association met at the California Club in Los Angeles on March 3 to hear reports on current developments in California's fight to retain her rightful share of Colorado River water.

The meeting was called by Walter W. Candy, Jr., President of this volunteer citizens' organization, which is carrying forward a nationwide educational program to arouse the people to the serious threat to California's Colorado River water supply contained in several Upper Colorado River Basin Project bills now pending before the Senate and the House of Representatives.

These bills call for numerous dams and irrigation works in the Upper Colorado River Basin states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico which would cost the nation's taxpayers billions of dollars in hidden subsidies, according to Mr. Candy.

He urged the people of California to write to their friends, relatives and business associates in the East asking them to, in turn, write to their respective Congressmen protesting the passage of these bills.

Those addressing the group, in addition to Mr. Candy, were Fred W. Simpson, Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California; M. J. Dowd, Consulting Engineer for the Imperial Irrigation District; Gilbert Nelson, Assistant Attorney General of California, assigned to the Colorado River Board; and Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District.

The meeting also received a message sent from Washington by Northcutt Ely, Special Counsel for the Colorado River Board of California. The message, read by Mr. Nelson, outlined the status of the Arizona-California Supreme Court suit and the grave danger to California's Colorado River supply contained in the Upper Colorado River Basin Project bills.

United Action Requested By Farm And Labor Leaders

The Agricultural Council of California and the Railroad Brotherhoods California Legislative Board this month joined forces with other State organizations and individuals in the battle to protect California's share of Colorado River water now being threatened by proposed legislation before Congress.

The Agricultural Council is composed of more than 40 large organizations of fruit, grain, cotton and vegetable growers and leading livestock and dairy associations. The Railroad Brotherhoods include the 11 brotherhoods and orders representing practically all California railroad employees.

Letters from both organizations to all members of California's Congressional Delegation called for unified opposition to the Upper Colorado River Basin Project and the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project which the Colorado River Board of California has declared constitute a serious threat to California's vital and rightful share of Colorado River water.

Allen F. Mather, Executive Secretary of the Agricultural Council which represents 70,000 California farmers, stated in his letters that:

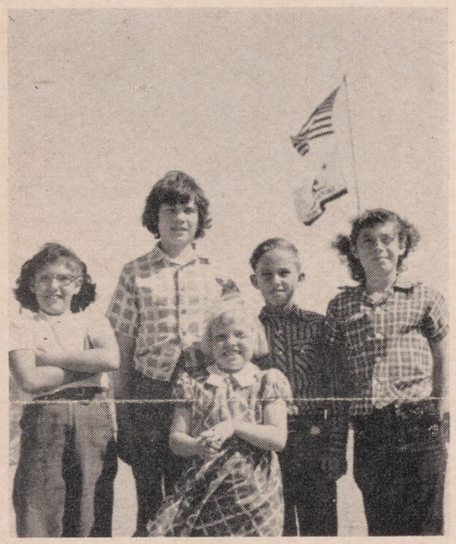
"The proposed projects are reliably reported to be economically infeasible. Federal subsidies will be required in the billions of dollars. Estimates are that California would have to pay $375,000,000 of that subsidy and have its water taken from it at the same time.

"The projects as presently proposed will interfere with the quantity of water guaranteed California under the Colorado River Compact of 1922, in which the upper basin states agreed to so divide the waters that California would receive 5,362,000 acre-feet of water annually from the Colorado River. This supply of water cannot be maintained if the above-mentioned projects are constructed as planned."

The Railroad Brotherhoods' letters which were signed by G. W. Ballard, Chairman, and William V. Ellis, Secretary, said in part that:

"We understand that hearings are now in progress on these bills and that further, they will require the unified opposition of all of our Congressional Delegation in order to defeat the efforts of those who seek to take away some of California's legal share of Colorado River water; reduce the power output of Hoover Dam; destroy the honest and legal intent of the Colorado River Compact; while at the same time, seeking to saddle California taxpayers with an additional tax burden for so doing."

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



This healthy group of youngsters are the children of District Aqueduct families living at Iron Mountain Village. They attend the public school at Rice. Left to right, are: Linda Blanchard, Billie Marie Cunningham, Donna Nicholson, Bill Stewart and Kay Sams.

Jo Oveson, Junior Clerk in the Los Angeles Office, is wearing a beautiful diamond ring given her by Larry Heath, Junior Engineer. The starry-eyed couple plan to be married June 7 in the Salt Lake Temple and will honeymoon in Oregon along the coast.

* * *

Burton L. Brehaut, Zeolite Operator at the Softening Plant, and his wife, Mary, have adopted a baby girl. The little lady was born February 5 and weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces. She has been named Ann Teresa.

* * *

Mrs. Margaret Watson, the grandmother of William S. Merrithew, Senior Engineer, celebrated her 104th birthday on March 16 when she held open house to her many friends.

The California State Assembly paid tribute to her in a special resolution which appeared in the Assembly Journal offering her heartiest congratulations.

Her living descendents are a daughter, Mrs. W. J. Merrithew, three grandchildren, Bill, Mrs. Greta Mason and Lawrence Chandler, and four great grandchildren.

Mrs. Watson's sight and hearing are excellent and she is looking forward to many more years of happy living.

Rudy Fernandez, Junior Draftsman, became a proud father on March 24 when his wife presented him with a 7 pound, 14 ounce baby daughter. The baby was born at White Memorial Hospital and her name is Linda. Rudy says she already is taking singing lessons and will become the featured vocalist with his band.

* * *

James B. Morey, at one time an Inspector with the Design Division, and now with the International Nickel Company, Inc., has been transferred from Los Angeles to Cincinnati to head up the Technical Section of his company in that area. Mr. Morey was with the District from September of 1935 until July of 1939.

* * *

Paul Oliveres, Utility Clerk, and his wife, Jacque, are the parents of a baby boy born on March 4 at the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital. The new arrival weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces at birth and has been named Charles Anthony.

Here is the District's representation at Desert Center School. Their families live at Hayfield Village. The young ladies are Paulette Adams, left, and Judi Love.

Adrien Lenain, Zeolite Operator at the Softening Plant, is a patient at the Pomona Valley Hospital for treatment of an injury. His condition is good and he is expected back on the job soon.

William S. Merrithew, Senior Engineer, is shown with his grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Watson, on the occasion of her 104th birthday. Many friends stopped by to pay their respects at an open house event on March 16.